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for dominant air and space power

HSW rededicates F-100 'space plane'

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

A historic symbol of aerospace history and Air Force scientific ingenuity was restored April 21 when the 311th Human Systems Wing rededicated the F-100F Super Sabre aircraft. The ceremony was held at the plane's permanent new location behind the Brooks Memorial adjacent to Hangar 9.

Nicknamed "Weightless 2" for its pivotal role as an early space program research aircraft, the F-100F had been previously located near the old main gate. It was placed there 20 years ago as the centerpiece to Schriever Heritage Park, dedicated to General Bernard Schriever who was "Father of the U.S. Air Force Space Program." The plane was removed from its original site in October 2004 as a result of commercial re-development.

"The relocation of the F-100F near Hangar 9, a National Historic Landmark, will serve to remind everyone that Brooks has a rich and varied history. We should never forget that history or those who made it happen," said Eric Stephens, 311th Human Systems Wing director.

Among those at the ceremony who contributed to Brooks Air Force Base history and Air Force space and aerospace research were Dr. Billy Welch and Dr. George Mohr, former Armstrong Laboratory director and chief scientist, respectively.

Also participating in the ceremony was Brig. Gen. Thomas Travis, former 311th HSW commander. "I was honored to be invited back, but I also hinted that I wanted to come back to close out this one last action from my time here as commander. And it ties to one of my first actions as commander, as back in April 2003, I signed off on the com-

mercial development of the corner of the base where all that development has occurred, which included Schriever Park," General Travis explained.

He continued, "The Weightless 2 had to move, but it was always our intention that it would be re-sited in an appropriate location, in order to preserve the heritage that it symbolizes. And, I made the decision to put it here. So I have been personally involved in this for a number of years, and it is great to see the aircraft proudly mounted here adjacent to the Brooks Memorial and Hangar 9."

General Travis described the history of the plane. It was one of two Aerospace Medical Division aircraft used during the 1960s to investigate the effects of weightlessness. Research conducted in the F-100Fs by U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine scientists supported the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's manned space flight program.

Based at Kelly AFB, "Weightless 2" and its companion "Weightless 1" were used in numerous experiments that included tests of space suits and space food that had been primarily developed by Air Force scientists at Randolph and Brooks AFB. The primary focus of these experiments was to determine zero gravity's effects on human physiology. Weightlessness was achieved during a rolling parabola maneuver. All seven of the original Mercury astronauts flew training and test flights in these aircraft. Research experiments in the F-100Fs ended in 1971.

"Weightless 2" gained a new role in 1986 when it became part of Schriever Heritage Park, developed to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Aerospace Medical Division.

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Photo by Kendahl Johnson

Brooks personnel gather near Hangar 9 at the F-100F rededication. The plane was moved from its original location at Schriever Park to make way for land development.

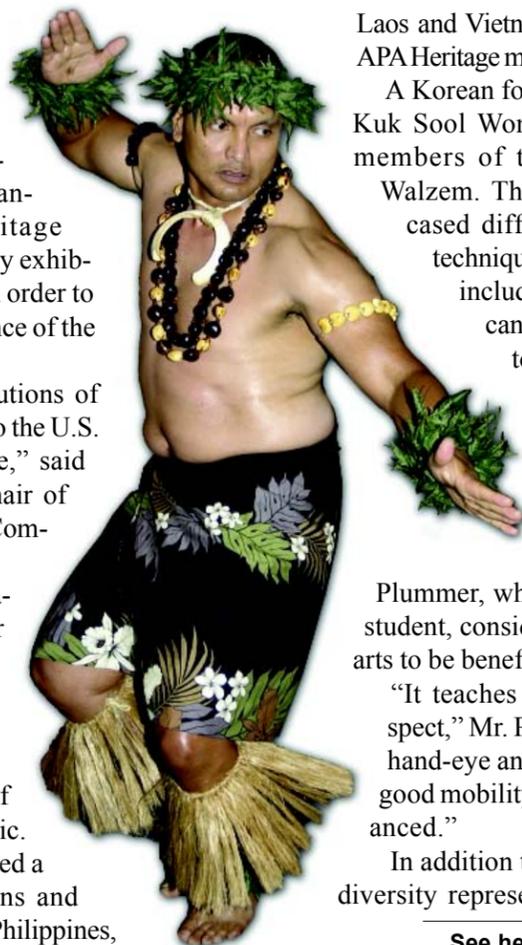
Brooks hosts food, song and dance in celebration of cultural heritage

By Elizabeth Castillo
Discovery writer

In an enthusiastic display of dancing and martial arts, this year's Asian-Pacific American Heritage month's opening ceremony exhibited an array of cultures in order to kick-off Brooks' observance of the national celebration.

"It honors the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans to the U.S. and also to the Air Force," said Capt. Scott Fujimoto, Chair of the APA Heritage Month Committee.

The opening event featured hula dancers Senior Master Sgt. Neal Ada (pictured right) and Airman 1st Class Melissa Perez dancing in traditional garb to Chamorran (natives of Guam) and Hawaiian music. The ceremony also included a colorful display of gowns and blouses from Japan, the Philippines,



Laos and Vietnam which were worn by APA Heritage month committee members.

A Korean form of martial arts called Kuk Sool Won was demonstrated by members of the Kuk Sool Won of Walzem. The demonstration showcased different forms of defense techniques used in training which included use of a staff, sword, cane and fans. Chief instructor Lawson Plummer nar-

rated the performance also offering a brief history of Kuk Sool Won and Korea. With members as young as 5-years-old, Mr.

Plummer, whose daughter is also his student, considers this form of martial arts to be beneficial for young children.

"It teaches kids discipline and respect," Mr. Plummer said. "It teaches hand-eye and foot-eye coordination, good mobility and how to remain balanced."

In addition to the fanfare of cultural diversity represented by dance, martial

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DISCOVERY

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'Wellness is an Attitude'

By Kathleen Lopez

Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs

"Wellness is an Attitude!" If Air Force Materiel Command leadership has its way, those words will become more than just a slogan for the command's new wellness and safety campaign; it will become a way of life.

Gen. Bruce Carlson, AFMC commander, identified wellness and safety of the command's military and civilian work force as one of his top three priorities shortly after assuming command in August 2005.

"Our work force is our only appreciable asset," General Carlson said. "Our success in AFMC depends on our work force - one that is healthy, safe, motivated, excited, interested and whole in terms of its overall wellness. Our efforts will help our people gain value, improve their quality of life and help them become even more productive over time."

To facilitate this cultural transition, a team representing all aspects of wellness and safety, led by Brig. Gen. (Dr.) William Germann, AFMC command surgeon, has defined and set the course for AFMC's Wellness and Safety Campaign, or WASC. The campaign debuts officially May 8, the kick-off for AFMC's second-quarter Wingman Week.

"Our goal is to create an environment within AFMC that takes a holistic approach to the overall wellness and safety of our people," General Germann said. "But to do this, we need to change our behaviors."

"Wellness is an Attitude" represents the command's concept that wellness is the sum total of four parts, or dimensions. They are: physical, social, emotional and spiritual.

Defined, the physical dimension of wellness is about weight-control, a balanced and healthy diet, appearance, self-image and exercise, said Lt. Col. John Leitnaker, operational prevention branch chief, command surgeon's office. The social dimension focuses on healthy relationships, job performance, involvement with group and team activities and financial stability. Emotional dimension traits address self-esteem and happiness. The spiritual dimension of wellness is about faith in a higher order and hope. Spiritual wellness does not necessarily mean a belief system that is religion-based, but recognizes the importance of resiliency and the ability to bounce back from the inevitable setbacks in life, the colonel said.

Why change?

AFMC is a unique major command, having its fingerprints on every Air Force program in the inventory, thereby supporting every American warfighter be they at home or abroad.

Ironically, AFMC's work force is nearly 75 percent civilian. AFMC civilians historically have not been part of the military structure that supports a wellness-focused work force, General Germann said. They have been identified, but are not well integrated.

There is good cause in bringing AFMC civilian Airmen into the fold with their uniformed coworkers. "The number of deaths our civilian work force is of great concern to me," General Carlson said. "There are other threats to our people's wellness due to obesity, sedentary lifestyles and poorly managed health conditions."

"We have an opportunity here not only to decrease the risk of early death, but also improve folks' productivity at work and overall quality of life. I don't enjoy signing condolence letters to families whose loved ones have died a death that possibly could have been prevented in a healthier, safer environment."

In creating a wellness-focused and safe environment for the AFMC work force, the AFMC commander intends to enhance readiness and productivity of the work force, while minimizing personal risk of preventable injury, illness or suicide.

WASC initiatives in place, others to come

Implementation of initial phases of the WASC began in January. For instance, full-time AFMC civilian Airmen are authorized up to three hours weekly for fitness or wellness activities, or a combination of both, General Germann said. Part-time employees' participation is prorated.

"This means civilians may dedicate this time to physical fitness activities, or attend any number of wellness classes offered at various base locations, including Health and Wellness Centers, medical centers, family support offices or the chapel, just to name a few," he said.

To participate in the voluntary physical fitness program, employees first need to contact their servicing employee relations specialists at their base civilian personnel offices.

More recent was the rollout of the voluntary Air Force Civilian Health Risk Appraisal, a questionnaire geared toward assessing and enhancing civilian quality of life, and the online AFMC Civilian Wellness Support Center.

"The HRA provides individualized, real-time wellness-related information and feedback to workers, allowing them to make informed decisions in a number of important wellness categories," General Carlson said.

The HRA is an outreach of Civilian Health Promotion Services. All AFMC bases have CHPS offices. Some of their services include annual physical health assessments, health education classes for nutrition, exercise, stress and weight management as well as tobacco cessation classes. To access the website, log onto www.afmcwellness.com, then click on "AFMC Civilian Wellness."

Other command-wide policies aimed at creating a culture that protects the AFMC population - and are enforced - include a cell phone policy, which prohibits hand-held cell-phone use while driving on AFMC installations, and a seatbelt policy, in which all passengers in vehicles must be strapped.

Two more initiatives are set to debut during AFMC's second-quarter Wingman Week. They include an online wellness survey and a Wingman's Wellness Passport program. An incentive plan that promotes individual and center-level competition is being developed, as well.

Leading wingmen takes leadership

The WASC is intended to align with AFMC's already-established Wingman culture, which is why the campaign makes its official debut during AFMC's Wingman Week. It takes three things to be a good Wingman, General Germann said. First, is to be alert, then, get involved and, finally, take action.

"However, it's one thing to make a voluntary commitment to wellness, helping yourself and helping others," he said. "It's another to feel you're in an environment that supports your decision."

General Carlson has made it clear that the transition toward a culture of wellness and safety is one that will require leadership from all levels.

"Changing our culture to be one that is wellness- and safety-focused will take leadership from the top and involvement from every member of our command," he said. "Commanders and directors, chiefs, first sergeants and supervisors at every level must lead by example first. They need to get to know their people, understanding their likes, dislikes, problems and frustrations."

"You cannot provide this brand of leadership by sitting behind a computer and generating what it's going to take from a leadership perspective. It is personal, it is face-to-face, it is sincere and it is direct. That's what it's going to take from a leadership perspective."

American Federation of Government Employees Council 214 is on board with the wellness and safety cultural shift, as well, having participated in the development of the programs to date.

What's the goal of the campaign?

Command leadership recognizes that cultural change is not easy, nor quick. It can, however, be measured to ascertain effectiveness. For the WASC, in lieu of goals, end states have been identified in all four dimensions and will be assessed quarterly, General Germann said.

Some of the annual objectives of the physical dimension are to decrease tobacco use in AFMC by 20 percent, increase the civilian fitness participation rate to 35 percent and decrease combined military and civilian on-duty disabling injuries by 33 percent, the general said. Socially, the campaign's aim includes decreasing adverse alcohol-related events by 25 percent annually and the number of persons with credit card debt by 10 percent. In the emotional dimension, the end state is 100 percent in eliminating suicides, training wingmen in suicide awareness and increasing awareness of behavioral health counseling services. A target of the spiritual dimension is to increase spiritual wellness of seeking individuals by 10 percent.

"In the end, we want to be known as the Air Force flagship command for leading the way to personal holistic wellness for its people," General Carlson said. "In other words, we want people to embody the concept that, 'Wellness is an Attitude!'"



Discovery

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Former astronaut promotes science at Brooks during nationwide tour

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Former astronaut Richard Hieb made an out-of-this-world pitch for science as a future career consideration to fifth and sixth graders participating in Challenger Learning Center activities here April 28.

His message is part of a nationwide tour that former astronauts are making to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Challenger Center for Space Science Education.

This organization, created to honor the seven astronauts who perished 20 years ago during the Challenger space shuttle accident, has since built a network of Challenger Centers worldwide. Today, there are 51 operational centers in the U.S., Canada and Great Britain that collectively provide science, math and engineering-related educational opportunities to more than 500,000 students annually.

"This is the second of 12 Challenger Centers that I plan to visit," said Mr. Hieb, referring to the Brooks site. He spoke about his NASA career during a video show that featured his three shuttle missions. His audience included about two dozen students enrolled in the gifted and talented space group program from San Marcos Independent School District's Hernandez Intermediate School.

"I'm here to remind you that you can be anything you want to be, but you have to do something to make things happen," he told the youngsters, encouraging them to pursue higher education.

The North Dakota native, who is vice president for Lockheed Martin Space Operations, said he had an early childhood interest in science.

"I was very interested in math and science. That's what I focused on in school.

If you want to be an astronaut, you have to be technical," he said during his presentation.

He said not all astronauts are military pilots. Mission specialists, like him, also include a variety of career occupations such as engineers, biologists and chemists.

Mr. Hieb earned a bachelor of arts degree in math and physics from Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, Idaho in 1977 and a master of science degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado in 1979. He initially worked for NASA in the Mission Control center on the ascent team for STS-1 and during rendezvous phases for numerous shuttle flights. He was selected in 1985 for the astronaut program, serving for 10 years.

Mr. Hieb and two other astronauts made space flight history in 1992 when they performed the world's first triple space walk to capture and repair a stranded Intelstat VI F3 communications satellite. This eight hour and 29 minute space walk, the longest in history, eclipsed the old record that had been held by the Apollo 17 astronauts for 20 years.

Mr. Hieb challenged his young audience to continue their interest in science in hopes that someday they, too, would be equipped to contribute to scientific projects designed to benefit humanity. "We're going back to the moon to practice for Mars," he said referring to NASA's plans during the next 20 years to explore the planet closest to earth.

Asked by a student why he became an astronaut, he replied, "When I was young, I watched the Apollo missions to the moon." He believes the next generation will witness in their lifetimes manned exploration of our solar system's outer planets.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Former astronaut Richard Hieb talks about the importance of science and math to a group of students at the Challenger Learning Center. For more information about the Challenger Learning Center, visit its website at www.clcsa.org.

Motorists encouraged to 'buckle up'

As motorists commute everyday through busy crowded streets, the potential for a car mishap is always present. Though some motor vehicle mishaps are unavoidable, a motorist can increase their chances of survival by simply wearing a safety belt.

"It is a proven fact that seat belts help prevent bodily injury," said Amando Perez, safety and occupational health specialist at Brooks.

This Memorial Day, San Antonio Police will team up with more than 11,000 law enforcement agencies during the national Click It or Ticket mobilization. The national enforcement wave runs from May 22- June 4 and will pay special attention to drivers and their

passengers. Those without a safety belt will receive a ticket.

"Obeying the law is important, but drivers should also be worried about their personal safety," said Mr. Perez.

In recent surveys taken by the Brooks safety office, the current total safety belt usage of Department of Defense personnel on Brooks is approximately 95.4 percent.

"Although percent usage is high, it still does not meet the 100 percent of required usage by Air Force standards," said Mr. Perez. "Putting on your seat belt before driving should be part of our everyday life."

— Elizabeth Castillo, Discovery writer



Civilians welcomed into military's professional enhancement classes

By Kendahl Johnson
Discovery editor

In the past, professional enhancement courses at Brooks have been open only to enlisted military personnel. That is about to change. Beginning in June, the senior non-commissioned officer professional enhancement course (SCNOPE) and the NCOPE course will be open to civilians.

Chief Master Sgt. Reggie Williams, command chief of the 311th Human Systems Wing, has been working with Senior Master Sgt. Michael Walljasper, career assistance advisor for the wing, on the integration of civilians into the course.

"We have so many civilians

who supervise military enlisted personnel, and this course will help them grow," Chief Williams said. "They need to know exactly what the expectations are for the military personnel. The course will help them better understand and appreciate the military."

Sergeant Walljasper agreed. "We felt it was time to provide opportunities for these civilians to improve their leadership skills."

The curriculum for the three-day professional enhancement course includes helping attendees improve leadership, mentoring and writing skills – skills necessary for all supervisors. Sergeant Walljasper, who designed the course and teaches it with the help of some of the top instructors on base, said there will be

few changes made to the curriculum to accommodate the civilians, but the course will continue to evolve as it has in the past.

"The workshop is continually being evaluated and restructured to ensure those who attend will get maximum benefit for their time invested," the sergeant said. "We pour over critiques and listen to feedback following each course to determine how we can improve the course."

The idea of introducing civilians into the program was hatched, in part, when Eric Stephens, director of the 311 HSW, approached the command chief with a desire to help civilians improve their leadership skills. "He came to me and asked how we could help civilians grow

and become better leaders," Chief Williams said.

After brainstorming some ideas, the chief realized a solid professional enhancement program was already established at Brooks and that very few changes would need to be made to provide enhancement opportunities to civilians.

"The integration of civilians into this course will be successful solely because of the effort and energy that Sergeant Walljasper has put into this program for the past two and half years," Chief Williams said. "He is a dedicated advisor and has worked hard to get this program in place."

The chief is very positive about the workshop and about the new civilian opportunities. "It's

an excellent, hard-hitting course. Anyone who attends the course will leave with more tools in their toolbox to be better leaders. And anybody who doesn't take advantage of the opportunity is short-changing themselves, their unit and more importantly, their people."

Brooks will be the first base in the Air Force Materiel Command to invite civilians to participate in professional enhancement courses. The next workshop will take place June 14-16. There will be five civilian slots available for each course, targeting civilians who supervise military personnel. Civilians interested in attending the workshop need to be recommended by their group commander.



Pilot class reunion at Brooks celebrates 50 years

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

About 30 former Air Force aviators met for the first time in 50 years when Pilot Class 1956M kicked off its inaugural reunion on April 27 at Hangar 9. For some of them, the Brooks visit re-kindled memories of their parents who had served here during the early days of powered flight.

"My dad Jerome J. Sladkey was a Brooks Field pilot in 1918. I have his pilot's wings and goggles," said his son, reunion pilot John Sladkey. His father, a native of Manitowac, Wis., was one of Brooks Field's first flying cadets during the base's inaugural operations as a primary flying training center.

"My father Wilfred came here as a student pilot, washed out, then came back (to earn his wings)," said his daughter Linda, wife of reunion pilot Fred Horky. Her dad eventually became an aerial observer and pilot for lighter-than-air dirigibles and observation balloons.

"He won the national balloon race," Mr. Horky said about his late father-in-law's achievements while stationed at Scott Field, Ill., in 1923.

"Dad received pilot training two separate times at Brooks. He flew Jennies," Mrs. Horky said. His second Brooks tour occurred after the 1922 dirigible disaster that ended Brooks Balloon and Airship Service School operations. In 1919, the Army Air Service had established dirigible training and development bases at Brooks, Scott Field and Ross Field (re-named Crissy Field), Calif., and an operational lighter-than-air base at Langley Field, Va. Dirigible training at Brooks ended in September 1922 when the Navy's C-2 dirigible, built by the Goodrich Rubber Company, exploded due to a hydrogen gas leak.

Mrs. Horky's father, a native of White Plains, N.Y., made a name for himself as Air University library director at Maxwell AFB, Ala. "He was responsible for (producing) the 17-volume Army Air Forces in World War II series," Mr. Horky said.

Other famous members of Pilot Class 1956M included the reunion's keynote speaker Eugene Kranz, a National Aeronautics and Space Administration legend who served as flight director for the manned lunar missions. He was at the Mission

Control helm at the Johnson Space Center in Houston when Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon during the Apollo 11 mission in July 1969.

Mr. Kranz's leadership was also instrumental in helping save the lives of the ill-fated Apollo 13 crew, for which he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Reunion pilot Jack Coleman of Greenville, S.C., served as Mr. Kranz's instructor pilot when they were both stationed at Spence AB in Moultrie, Ga.

"I was a civilian contract instructor pilot for the Hawthorne School of Aeronautics when I met Lieutenant Kranz. He had the right stuff," said Mr. Coleman, who advised the future NASA flight director not to pursue a plan to become a test pilot. "I advised against it because too many test pilots had been killed," he said. Some of the top test pilots eventually became America's first astronauts.

"The idea for the reunion came from Dwanne Tuttle from Kansas. He was the recipient of one of the first heart transplants," said chief reunion organizer John Mitchell of Reston, Va.

Among the other notable members of Pilot Class 1956M



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Linda Herky (left) and John Sladkey discuss their fathers' pilot training exploits at Brooks Field during the early days of powered flight. They visited Hangar 9 in April as part of Pilot Class 1956M's 50th anniversary reunion.

that Mr. Mitchell identified are Randolph Galt, who married Hollywood actress Ann Baxter, and Lee Meyer who traded his pilot's wings for Roman Catholic priest vestments.

"None of us trained at Brooks, but one of our class members from San Antonio had recommended we hold our first reunion here because it is close to where we trained," Mr. Mitchell said.

Three of several bases class members received their initial pilot training were in Texas: Webb AFB in Big Spring, Laughlin AFB

in Del Rio and Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo.

"Not many of us were left from about 300-350 who began basic training at Lackland AFB," said reunion pilot Charlie Pfeiffer. Because of a pilot surplus after the Korean War, the Air Force reduced the number of pilot candidates through various means, Mr. Pfeiffer said. These included high physical fitness and vision standards.

Pilot candidates who washed out for any reason were reassigned to ground jobs.



Teenager thanks C-STARS doctor, trauma team for saving her life

By **Laura McGowan**

Aeronautical Systems Center PA

Like most teenage, high school seniors, Rachael Swango is looking forward to going to the prom, graduating and attending college. However, unlike most teenagers, she will be able to fulfill her dreams because of the skills of the Trauma Team at University Hospital in Cincinnati, home of the Center for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills.

C-STARS in Cincinnati falls under the Aeronautical Systems Wing, 311th Human Systems Wing at Brooks City-Base, and is one of three such facilities (one in Baltimore and St. Louis)

where military doctors, nurses and medics are trained in a civilian trauma center.

In February 2005, Rachael sustained life-threatening injuries in a car accident. Luckily for her, she was transported to the level one trauma center at University Hospital where military and civilian doctors knew exactly what to do to repair a severed major vein, lacerated liver and collapsed lungs.

"The mortality rate for her type of injury is almost always 100 percent," said Maj. Stephen Barnes, trauma surgeon with C-STARS. He was part of the team of doctors who worked together to save Rachael's life.

"It's a wonderful thing to have patients come back to see us," said Dr. Tim Pritts, assistant professor and trauma team doctor at University Hospital. "It gives us a chance to see what's possible when everything works according to plan and all systems function."

Rachael came back to the trauma center to receive an ad poster, which was signed by the doctors and nurses who cared for her during her stay. She also presented the doctors with a plaque thanking them for saving her life.

"I am thankful for all of you guys being there and saving my life," said Rachael. During her visit, she revisited her ICU room

with the team of doctors who cared for her. She has very little memory of when she was brought in.

Rachael is excited about going to the prom later this month and then going to Concord University in West Virginia in the fall where, because of her experiences at the trauma center, she plans to major in medicine.



Courtesy photo

Rachael Swango accepts a framed poster of her ad from Dr. Tim Pritts, assistant professor and trauma team doctor at University Hospital, as her mother looks on. Rachael was presented an ad postersigned by the C-STARS doctors and nurses who cared for her during her stay in the hospital.



ERIC STEPHENS
311th Human Systems
Wing director

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Brooks graduates 36 from CCAF

All members of the Brooks City-Base Community are invited to the Spring 2006 Community College of the Air Force Graduation ceremony. The ceremony will be held today at Hangar 9 at 10 a.m. with a reception to follow. Brooks Spring graduates are:

- Master Sgt. Michael Alberthal – USAFSAM
- Staff Sgt. Robin Balanciere – USAFSAM
- Staff Sgt. Benjamin Barker – USAFSAM
- Staff Sgt. Maryanne Bay – AFIOH
- Tech. Sgt. Heidi Bengé – USAFSAM
- Staff Sgt. Candice Boykin – USAFSAM
- Tech. Sgt. Krisanna Bradley – USAFSAM
- Staff Sgt. Nicole Brown – 68th IOS
- Tech. Sgt. Tina Chaney – USAFSAM
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- Tech. Sgt. Glenn Desormeau – 68th IOS
- Master Sgt. Felix Escamilla – USAFSAM
- Master Sgt. Jason Fiegl – 68th IOS

- Staff Sgt. Angela Geist – USAFSAM
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- Master Sgt. James Lehman – USAFSAM
- Staff Sgt. Jesus Lopez – USAFSAM
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- Tech. Sgt. Earl Morgan – AFOPO
- Tech. Sgt. Paul Pruitt – 68th IOS
- Staff Sgt. Willie Reese – USAFSAM
- Tech. Sgt. Ramon Reid – USAFSAM
- Senior Airman Jaimeece Robinson – 311th MSG
- Staff Sgt. Shanna Saribalis – AFIOH
- Tech. Sgt. Deanne Shaddrick – USAFSAM
- Staff Sgt. Lakeatta Tonge – USAFSAM
- Staff Sgt. Margaret Umfress – AFIOH
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GIVE PARENTS A BREAK

May 12 — 5 - 9 p.m., Bldg. 537

The Air Force Aid Society offers eligible parents a few hours break from the stressors of parenting. To be eligible for the program, families must be referred by any commander, first sergeant or chaplain. They can also be referred by the Family Support Center, Family Advocacy, Child Development Center or the Youth Center. Contact the Youth Center at 536-2515 to make reservation.

SINGLE PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

May 15 — 11 a.m. - noon, Bldg. 537

Come join other single parents for lunch and an opportunity for enhancing personal growth, self-confidence and sensitivity towards others by offering an environment for support, friendship and the exchange of parenting techniques. Please RSVP by noon, May 12.

SMOOTH MOVE

Aug. 16 — 12:30 - 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 537

PCSing? Hear briefings from TMO, Legal, Clinic, Finance, Housing, and the Family Support Center and ask questions. Open to all active duty members, DoD civilians and spouses.

BUNDLES FOR BABIES

May 25 — 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Bldg. 537

Active duty Air Force couples with a newborn or expecting a child should plan on attending this Air Force Aid Society sponsored class. Obtain information about budgeting, basic baby care, infant development, effective parenting, car seat regulations and much more.

EFFECTIVE RESUMES

June 14 — 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Bldg. 537

Learn the different resume styles and how to write and use them effectively to open career opportunities. Find out the dos and don'ts of resume development. You must register in advance for this class.

SPONSOR TRAINING

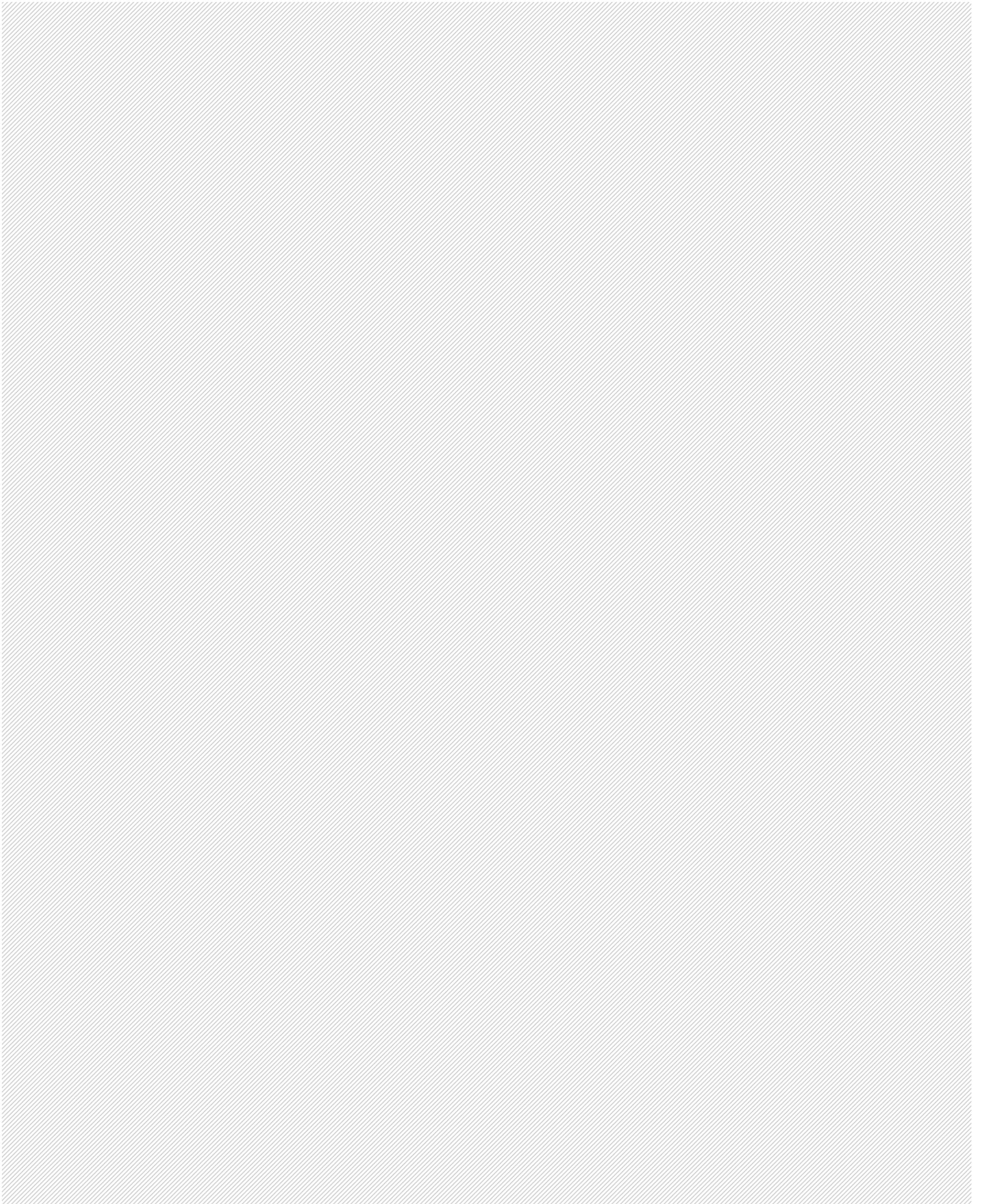
Mondays — 1 - 1:30 p.m., Bldg. 537

Sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend. Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This program is a free benefit provided to civilians and their spouses and dependent children. Services can be accessed by calling 1-800-222-0364. The EAP offers short term counseling/problem resolution either by telephone or via face to face counseling with a therapist in private practice in the San Antonio area, referrals to community resources, legal and financial services, a website resources offered at www.FOH4you.com, consultations, Critical Incident Stress Management services, and health and wellness presentations. Confidentiality is the cornerstone of the EAP. Counselors are ethically and legally bound by law to protect client information, except in cases where one is threatening to harm.

**To register for a class,
call 536-2444**





Brooks quarterly Award Winners



Senior Airman Paul Singletary
AFRL
Airman of the Quarter



Staff Sgt. Shana Roberson
68th IOS
NCO of the Quarter



Master Sgt. Miranda Hill
AFIOH
SNCO of the Quarter



1st Lt. Alex Johnson
AFRL
CGO of the Quarter



Staff Sgt. Stefanie Amaya
AFIOH
Honor Guard



Crystal Medina
AFRL
Student Aide of the Quarter



Trevor Harrison
311th MSG
GS-3 through GS-5



Diana Saenz
311th HSW
GS-6 through GS-8



David Martin
AFIOH
GS-9 through GS-11



Tammy O'Neill
AFCEE
GS-12 through GS-13



Delicia Debarros
311th MSG
NAF Manager



Laura Martinez
311th MSG
NAF Technician

CONGRATULATIONS to all winners

New personnel system now in effect

by **Steven Donald Smith**
American Forces Press Service

Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England signed a directive to implement the new National Security Personnel System during a roll-out ceremony here April 28.

"Today is a milestone event," Secretary England said during the Pentagon ceremony. "After two and a half years of very hard work, the Department of Defense is initiating the human resources phase of the National Security Personnel System."

About 11,000 Defense Department civilian employees from 12 DOD organizations will be part of the initial Spiral 1.1 phase-in process of the new system.

Secretary England said the old civilian personnel system, which has been in place for 50 years, was not capable of keeping pace with the department's needs.

"As our military forces are reoriented to better address a changing landscape, the civilian workforce too needs to become more agile, adaptable and fully integrated with the efforts of our military forces," he said.

Employees will be converted to pay bands that replace the general schedule and will be given new results-focused performance plans that are clearly linked to their organization's mission and strategic goals, defense officials said.

The performance appraisal cycle for Spiral 1.1 employees began April 30 and ends Oct. 31. These employees will receive their first performance pay increases in January.

In addition, employees performing satisfactorily will receive an in-

crease equivalent to the general pay and locality increase received by general-schedule employees in January 2007, according to DOD officials.

Secretary England said he understood if some civilian employees had a little anxiety about the conversion, but he stressed that supervisors have been given a lot of training to help make sure

people are comfortable with the new system. "This is not a fire-and-forget effort," he said.

Classroom and Web-based training covering the basics of NSPS, with special emphasis on performance management, has

been in high gear for employees over the last several months, according to a DOD press release.

This is a critical time for the U.S. because the current security context is much more varied and uncertain than at any time in the past, Secretary England said, and to meet today's challenges the Department of Defense needs the right people in the right places, working in the right ways.

"People are our most valuable resource, and today we are improving the ability of the department's people to be successful," he said.



NSPS 101: New training available

Department of Defense officials are offering an online course that provides an overview of the Human Resources elements of the National Security Personnel System (NSPS), according to Charles Shinn, Brooks NSPS Implementation Advisor.

Covering topics such as conversion to NSPS, classification, compensation, performance management, staffing flexibilities, and workforce shaping, the web-based course designed to address questions such as "What happens to me when my position is converted to NSPS?" to "How does the pay-for-performance system work?" NSPS 101 serves as a foundation for ongoing training in instructor-led courses that begin shortly before conversion into NSPS.

The course offers the first information made available about NSPS and features a conver-

sion calculator that identifies an employee's career group, pay schedule, pay band and estimate of within-grade increase buy-in, he said.

"NSPS 101 is a great course for truly understanding the concepts and even the formula for converting when NSPS is implemented at Brooks," he said. "It will prepare supervisors and nonsupervisors to understand the material that will be taught to them during specific NSPS classroom training sessions this summer."

Access to NSPS 101 is very easy. A hot link on the Brooks NSPS home page will take people directly to the course. Another way to find the class is to go to the DoD NSPS home page and click on the NSPS 101 link.

Mr. Shinn reminds supervisors and employees that Brooks will convert to the new system no earlier than Oct. 1.

— **Ed Shannon, 311th Human Systems Wing PA**

Events planned for heritage celebration

Continued from page 1

arts and attire, an array of Asian Pacific artifacts were on display representing various cultures of Asian Pacific American heritage.

Numerous events will be held at Brooks throughout the month to honor Asian Pacific Americans including a lumpia cooking demonstration, story readings and a luau.

The lumpia cooking class will take place on Thursday May 18 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Every Wednesday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Child Development Center there will be story readings from Asian-Pacific books.

A luau will be held on Thursday May 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the outside pavilion. The luau will feature a menu of shish kabob, chicken adobo, chap chae, pancit, lumpia, mandu, rice, fruit and dessert. There will also be entertainment provided by the Aloha San Antonio dancing group.

Tickets are on sale for \$7 and can be purchased from APA heritage month committee members Tech Sgt. Deanne Shaddrick, Senior Master Sgt. Editha Garcia Master, Sgt. Michael McCoy, Capt. Scott Fujimoto or Tech. Sgt. Brigida Hendrix. Volunteers interested in helping with events can sign up at the FSC.



BROOKS BRIEFS



Annual Base Picnic

Be sure to mark June 9 on your calendar and make plans to attend the annual base Picnic. "Go the Distance: Military and Community" is this year's theme. The event will be from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the base picnic grounds. There will be food, beverages and games for everyone. All Brooks personnel, including tenants and contractors, are welcome to participate in the picnic.

Any organization wishing to have a booth at the event should contact Jan McMahon at 536-5475 for a listing of available food and beverage items. All food and beverage items must be prepared by the individual groups and cannot be purchased ready made from off base to sell at the picnic. The next picnic planning meeting will be Wednesday at Sidney's (Bldg. 714), at 2 p.m.

Brooks Dining Out

The annual Brooks Dining Out will take place May 12 at 6 p.m. in the Brooks Club. The theme of the event is "Preserving the Past...Building the Future." The guest speaker will be Lt. Gen. John Hudson, commander of the Aeronautical Systems Center. Tickets are \$10 (E1-E4), \$15 (E5-E6, GS1-9 and retirees), \$20 (E7-E8, O1-O3 and GS10-12), or \$25 (E9,

O4, GS13 and above). To purchase tickets, contact Capt. Scott Woehl at 536-8611 or Capt. Jared Mort at 536-2481.

After School Program

The Youth Program Center's After School Program is conducted Monday through Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. Drop-in spaces are available. Homework assistance, computer time, outdoor play, cooking activities and arts and crafts are offered to children. Fees are based on total household income. Call the Youth Programs Center at 536-2515 for more information or to register.

Treasure Island Casino Cruise

Brooks' Outdoor Recreation is sponsoring a one-day cruise aboard the Treasure Island Casino in Port Aransas, Texas. A smoke-free commercial bus will depart Sidney's parking lot at 7 a.m. May 20, with the cruise running from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost for trip is \$25 per person, and includes admission aboard the cruise ship, dining in the international buffet, complimentary beverages while gaming and live entertainment. Guests must be at least 21 years of age to book passage, and must have proper identification. Contact Outdoor Rec at 536-2881 to sign up.

Termination of towel service

Effective May 1, towel service at the Fitness Center was discontinued due to budget constraints.

Educational awards available

The Brooks Heritage Foundation is presenting three educational awards to eligible applicants — a \$1,000 award to a graduating high school senior and two \$250 awards to student aides employed at Brooks. Applications are available in the foundation's office in the museum annex. Email bhf@satx.rr.com for more information. The application deadline is May 1.

Summer Day Camp

The Youth Programs Center is currently registering Summer Day Camp. Camp starts May 26 and is held Monday through Friday from 6:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fees are determined by total household income. Breakfast, lunch and a snack are included in the fee. Field trips, computer time, outdoor play, arts and crafts, cooking activities and leisure time make up the camp day. For more information, contact the Youth Programs Center at 536-2515.

Cup-A-Joe Coffee House

The newly-opened Cup-A-Joe Coffee House is open weekdays from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.

and 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 to 11 a.m. The shop proudly brews Starbucks coffee. Try a cappuccino, white chocolate mocha, espresso, latte, café Americano or numerous other hot beverages. Pick up a beverage card and have it stamped each time you make a purchase. Buy nine beverages and get the 10th free.

Provider Appreciation Day

Childcare organizations nationwide have joined together to declare May 12 to be Provider Appreciation Day. At Brooks, the Child Development Center and Youth Center Parent Advisory Council will be leading this effort by honoring providers with a lunch and small appreciation ceremony May 12 at noon at the CDC. Provider Appreciation Day is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers and educators of young children.

Brooks TOP 3

Brooks TOP 3 meets the third Wednesday of every month at 3 p.m. in the Brooks Club. The TOP 3 is open to all members grade E7 through E9 and all master sergeant selects.

Air Force Sergeant's Association

The Air Force Sergeant's Association meets the second Tuesday every month at 3 p.m. at Sidney's. AFSA membership is open to all Air Force enlisted members.



Survey to gather information on AFMC's wellness

By Kathleen Lopez

Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs

Do you think you have sufficient time to accomplish physical fitness activities? Do you feel you work in a non-hostile environment? Are you aware of counseling resources available to you on base? When things aren't going so well, do you have the resiliency to bounce back?

Air Force Materiel Command leadership would like to know answers to these and other questions so they can make your overall quality of life and productivity on the job as good as it can be.

In conjunction with the May 8 debut of the AFMC Wellness and Safety Campaign, command officials are launching a voluntary Wingman Day Wellness Survey.

"The survey is intended to provide leadership measures of the four dimensions of wellness, which are physical, social, emotional and spiritual, as well as safety and other wingman initiatives as they currently exist in the command," said Col. William B. Martin, Individual Mobilization Augmentee to AFMC Command Surgeon's behavioral health chief. "Historically, we have collected metrics on incidents after they have occurred, for example counting the number of DUIs for the past month or the number of abuses reported.

"With this survey, we want to shift from an 'after-the-fact' information-collection mindset to one that gathers information early and focuses on what's happening in units and on bases," he said.

The colonel explained that by getting a sense of general wellness of the entire AFMC work force, command leadership can better assess

the impact of the processes in place. Currently limited baseline data exists.

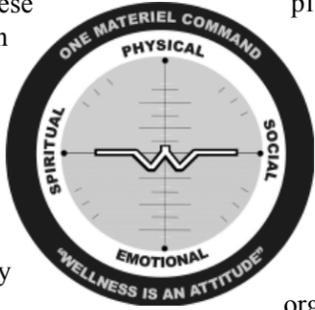
The survey is voluntary and available to the active-duty, civilian, Reserve and contractor AFMC work force. Employees represented by AFGE Council 214 are exempt from participating in the survey. It is anonymous in that no data requested would allow any specific individual to be identified. The colonel explained that extreme precautions have been taken by the Air Force Survey Program Office to ensure privacy.

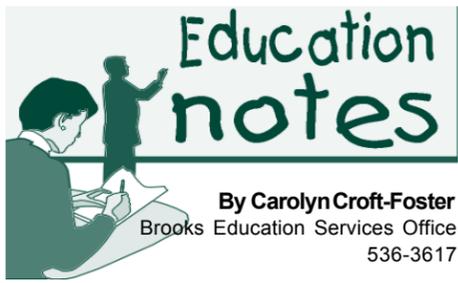
"We don't want to know individual information, per se," Colonel Martin said. "Rather, at this point we're trying to ascertain a more global picture within a given organization, and thus, the command."

Answering the survey takes an average of five minutes. To access the site log onto <https://survey.afms.mil/wws06>. Individuals taking the survey are asked to identify themselves only by employment status, i.e. active-duty, civilian, Reserve or contractor. Then, they are taken through a series of 16 questions that are related to the four dimensions of wellness, and safety. Finally, respondents are asked to identify their home base and unit.

While the Wingman Day Wellness Survey debuts May 8, Colonel Martin said it will be activated for two weeks. Afterward, the data will be analyzed by the AFMC Command Surgeon Office and provided to Gen. Bruce Carlson, AFMC commander. Information will then be provided to the command.

Future plans for the survey are to have it available quarterly in conjunction with future wingman weeks, the colonel said.





to review the website and get started, call 536-3617.

Texas State University

Texas State University offers a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree. The BAAS degree provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to capitalize on prior work and training experiences. Students pursuing

this degree may transfer semester hours previously earned, individualize the degree plan with major emphasis in an occupational field of choice, and earn semester hour credit for work and life experience and training conducted by business, industry, and military. Night classes are available in the San Antonio and San Marcos area. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 536-3618.

AF Virtual Education Center

Service members can view information about Air Force education centers, individual education record, DANTES test scores, and tuition assistance requests from the on-line Virtual Education Center. Tuition assistance is requested through this website as well. CCAF students can order CCAF transcripts from the website and view a web progress report. There are also practice tests available for CLEP exams and information about commissioning. To access the AFVEC go to <https://my.af.mil/afvecprod>. For more information, call 536-3617.

Montgomery GI Bill

Active-duty personnel currently enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill have the opportunity to increase Chapter 30 GI Bill benefits by \$5,400 (from \$23,400 to \$28,800) for a maximum contribution of \$600. This payment increases the full-time monthly rate \$1 for every \$4 contributed. The minimum payment is \$20 per month. Contributions can be started and stopped at any time while the participant is on active duty. This is not a pay reduction; therefore, there is not a tax savings. This benefit is only open to personnel who first entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985 and elected to participate in the Montgomery GI Bill. This feature is not open to Vietnam-Era or VEAP Converttees.

Discover Program online

The Discover Program is a career exploration program for individuals searching for a new career. This program can be used by military, civilians and family members. For more information or to schedule an appointment



A LOOK AT BROOKS

Where is your
favorite place to
go for lunch?



**Airman 1st Class
Mark Wolfe
68th IOS**

Buffalo Wild Wing Grill and Bar — I really like the food there, and it is very fast.



**Stephanie Ross
311th MSG**

I go and grab a \$5 pizza from Little Caesars — I'm a pizza kind of girl. It is really good and really fast; I just grab it and go!



**Airman 1st Class
David Scott
68th IOS**

Mr. and Mrs. G's — I'm from Alabama and it is a taste of home. It's like what my grandma used to make.



**2nd Lt. Jason Hasbrouck
AFRL**

Quizno's — I get a military discount, it is healthy and they have steak sandwiches.



**Senior Master Sgt.
Don Fritz
AFRL**

B&B Smokehouse — I really love there bar-b-que.

Visit the Discovery online at www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery

SAN ANTONIO



Eric Stephens, 311 Human Systems Wing director, and King Antonio LXXIII, Clifton Douglass, take a moment to pose for the camera during the Brooks Fiesta Reception at Hangar 9.



Brooks Fiesta ambassador Capt. Belitza Dominguez from the Military Equal Opportunity office waves to the crowd during the Flambeau parade, April 22.



Col. Penny Giovanetti, vice director of the 311th Human Systems Wing, presents a Fiesta medal to a young man at the Brooks Fiesta reception as Col. James Neville, commander of the Air Force Institute for Operational Health, looks on.



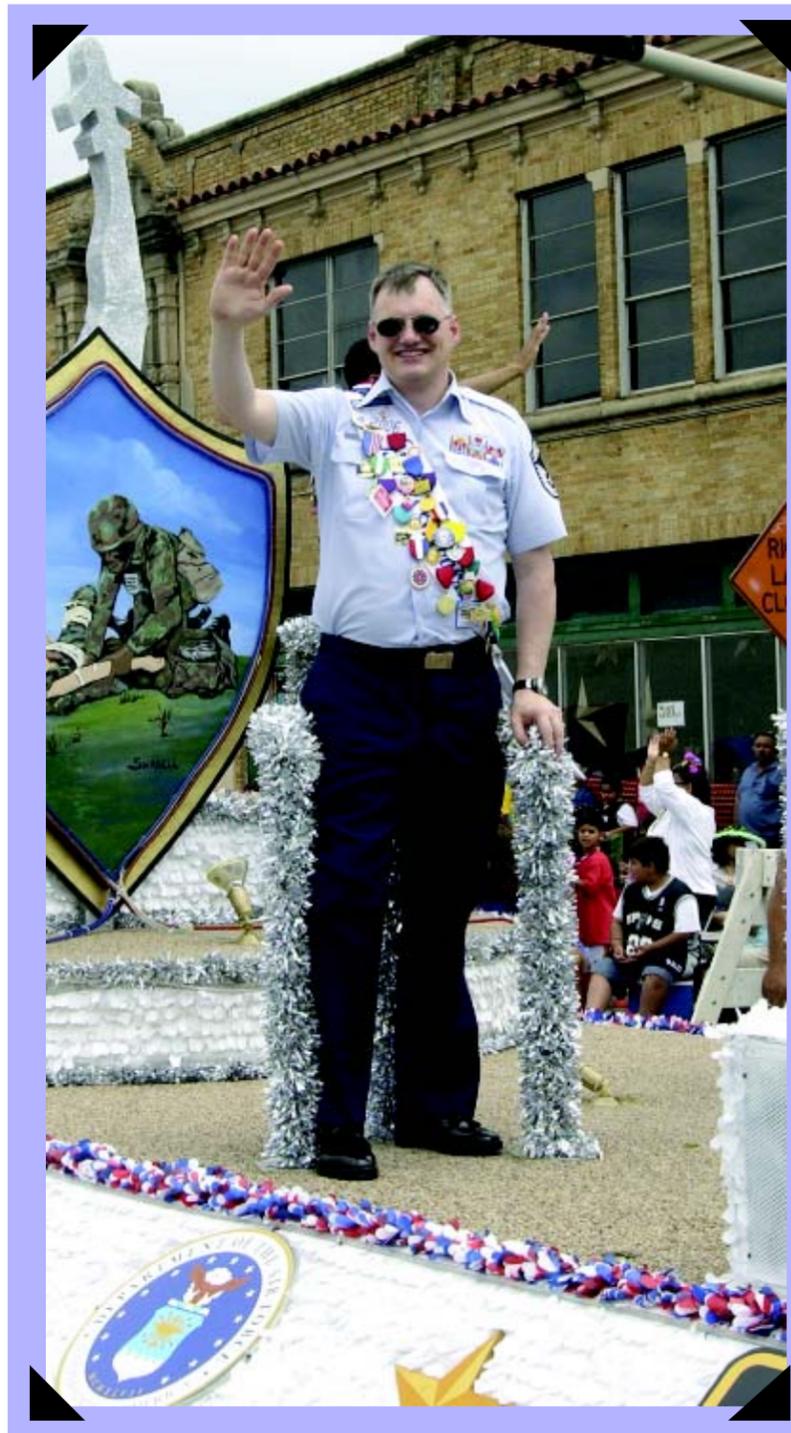
Brooks ambassadors Capt. Belitza Dominguez (left) and Master Sgt. David Riggs (right) flank Chief Master Sgt. Tim Conley of the U.S. School of Aerospace Medicine at the Veteran's Memorial. The trio represented Brooks in remembering those who gave their lives in the service of our country.



FIESTA 2006



Military Fiesta ambassadors, including (from left to right) Brooks' Master Sgt. David Riggs and Capt. Belitza Dominguez, Tech. Sgt. Toree White and Senior Airman Amanda Beldon of the Air Intelligence Agency, wave to the crowds during the annual River Parade.



Brooks Fiesta ambassador Master Sgt. David Riggs of the 311th Communications Squadron rides on the Air Force/Army float at the Battle of Flowers parade.

The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team wrapped up the Brooks Fiesta Reception with a precision drill routine. The team is stationed at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.



Photo Credits:

Facing page — top right by Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr. and all others by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart.

This page — top left and right by Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr. and bottom photoby Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart.



Former base commander returns to Brooks to rededicate aircraft

Continued from page 1

“It became the cornerstone of an active historical restoration, preservation and recognition program,” Mr. Stephens said. “That event sparked a renewed history preservation focus. This led to the building of the Sidney Brooks Memorial in 1987 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Brooks; the relocation and renovation of a Brooks World War I era facility in 1992 which became the Aeromedical Evacuation Annex; and the relocation of the remains of Lieutenant Sidney Brooks in 1993 to the memorial named for him.”

Schriever Heritage Park was so named, Mr. Stephens explained, to honor the first Air Force Systems Command commander. The 311th HSW director said, “General Schriever was the driving force for the creation of the Aerospace Medical Division within Air Force Systems Command, thus consolidating all life



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

Eric Stephens (left), director of the 311th Human Systems Wing, and Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, former wing commander, unveil a plaque at the F-100 rededication, next to Hangar 9.

and behavioral sciences for aerospace support.

“General Schriever believed this integration would command facilities so comprehensive and be so well established that it would become the human systems advocate for the Air Force, the nation and the entire free world. He was right, and today at Brooks City-Base we continue to execute his vision.”



Brooks golf course worker passes away at 56

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks City-Base community mourned the passing of Rudy Gonzales, a well-known golf course worker, who died April 19 after a long battle with colon cancer. He was 56.

Mr. Gonzales, a retired Air Force veteran, had worked as a Non Appropriated Fund golf course assistant here since 2002. He was buried with full military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on April 27.

"Those of us who knew about his illness are not shocked by his passing. He was living on borrowed time," said friend and co-worker Jose Valadez, Brooks golf course manager, referring to the five year period in which his cancer had been in remission. Mr. Valadez said his friend's will to live was both amazing and inspiring. "Rudy was a very strong

man. He had beaten cancer the first time," recalls Mr. Valadez about his friend's initial diagnosis in 2001. At the time, Mr. Gonzales was medically retired from Air Force civil service due to the disease that almost took his life then, Mr. Valadez explained. He recovered, and several months later asked to work at the one place he loved most, the golf course.

"He was very dependable," says the golf course manager who had used him for a variety of jobs including golf instructor. "Rudy was very much a people person. He felt good to teach people golf, especially the kids," Mr. Valadez said.

Last summer, Mr. Gonzales conducted a series of golf lessons



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Rudy Gonzales proudly displays the plaque he received after carding a hole-in-one at the Brooks Golf Course. The course worker died of colon cancer April 19.

for children here that was part of the Air Force 'Golf 4 Kids' program. "Everything I teach them is very basic. It includes etiquette rules and proper stance, grip and alignment. I (also) tell the kids that the pros make mistakes just like we do," Mr. Gonzales said during a July 2005 Discovery interview.

Besides teaching golf, Mr. Gon-

zales made history on the Brooks links. In September 2003, he joined Brooks golf legend Bob Hager as the first pair of golfers to fire holes-in-one on the base course in the same year. The following year, Mr. Gonzales captained the Services golf team to its second consecutive intramural league championship.

Born in San Antonio on December 19, 1949, Mr. Gonzales grew up in a golfing family that included six other siblings. "He liked to teach (golf) to young people," says his oldest brother John, who works at the Republic Golf Course near Brooks. "He was always trying to help people," recalls his younger brother Walter, while his sister

Chris recalled, "He was a happy-go-lucky person who enjoyed organizing golf tournaments."

Mr. Gonzales excelled in baseball, volleyball and golf while attending Sam Houston High School. After graduating from there in 1968, he served for 20 years as an Air Force logistics management specialist who procured aircraft parts.

"He liked working by himself. He was an individualist, but very effective," said his former Brooks boss Jose Aviles.

Mr. Aviles described his friend of 30 years as honest and fair. He said Mr. Gonzales was also very competitive and an extrovert. One of his most memorable qualities, his friends and co-workers observed, was Mr. Gonzales' knack for encouraging others and bolstering their spirits. "He loved to cook and share the food he made with us," Mr. Valadez said.



Brooks Golf Course fits many 'to a tee'

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Gary, Indiana, native Jim Marconi is typical of the type of golfer who've flocked to Brooks over the years to play on a golf course that 'fits them to a tee.'

"It's handy to me. I live in Floresville and come here to attend the Brooks Chapel," says the 69-year-old Air Force veteran while practicing his swing on the driving range.

For many senior citizens and a host of younger players, the Brooks golf course is more than a sports venue. It's a place to relax, swap stories and enjoy the game in a tranquil, laid-back setting.

"I think the retirees love this course. It's a very challenging course," said Services director John Robinette. Despite competition from the new Republic Golf Course near Brooks, as well as the more established Pecan Valley and Riverside golf courses, the nine-hole Brooks venue has maintained a loyal following since it first opened 36 years ago.

During the first decade of golf course operations here, the majority of golfers that used it were on active duty. The first foursome to play here on Jan. 22, 1970 was Maj. Gen. Charles Roadman, Aerospace Medical Division commander; Joe Potts, Brooks Field National Bank president, Brooks golf pro Cliff Gossett and the course's principal designer Col. Irvin Keefer, who was the Brooks Air Force Base commander.

Built for \$94,950 through non-appropriated funds, the 3,535-yard course from the championship tees features large 6,000-square-foot greens and fairways that were initially lined with 75 evergreens. The 442-yard par 4, seventh hole is still considered one of the most challenging in San Antonio. The course also features an atypical water hazard: a large pond, filled with migratory birds, that is a designated wetland administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Since its inception, the course has attracted champion amateur golfers. Danny Gould and June Lewis were the first men's and women's club champions in 1970. Michaelia Demboski and Ted Burgess were the last club champions in 1994 and 2000, respectively.

HSG repeats as league volleyball champs

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The Human Systems Group intramural volleyball team made good on its pre-season plan to repeat as league champs when they captured a second consecutive title in April. Posting a perfect 6-0 league record, HSG has positioned itself for something that eluded them last year — a base championship.

They and six other intramural squads will compete for the base volleyball crown during a single elimination championship tournament that begins May 8 and ends with the title game May 11 at the fitness center gym. As the tourney's top seed, HSG has earned a first round bye.

"We all played very well together. As a team, we were very fundamental," said Ben Smith, HSG volleyball team player-coach. They came together without the services of their top hitter, Steve Dawson,



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Albert Merolli (left), Jose Valadez and John D'Andrea, a few of the staff at the Brooks Golf Course, are part of the rich history of the course, which will close in August. A final "goodbye" tournament will take place July 28.

"The Brooks Golf Club Association used to be big here," said golf course manager Jose Valadez, a past club champion. The 67-year-old former Marine says the course has in recent years attracted a diverse clientele.

"Palo Alto and St. Philip's College conduct their golf classes here," he said of the long-standing contractual agreement. In addition to the Brooks community holding tournaments here, several civilian organizations call the course home, including the Northside Men's Catholic Association and the Knights of Columbus.

Also calling it home is a dedicated staff headed by Mr. Valadez. "They make people feel they are family (here)," says Mr. Valadez, referring to snack bar cooks Delfina Verasigi and Lupe Marin.

Jim Connell, the course superintendent and an Air Force veteran, has immaculately maintained the greens and fairways despite a prolonged drought. Bob Hager and John D'Andrea, two NAF flex employees who are also Air Force veterans, serve as pro shop cashiers. Mr. Valadez praised their contributions as well as the work of unpaid volunteers who help augment the staff. Volunteers, such as 74-year-old Korean and Vietnam War Air Force veteran Albert Merolli, perform such labor-of-love jobs as golf cart maintenance, debris removal, drainage ditch

cleanup and removal of hundreds of golf balls from the driving range.

"Everybody who comes here is considered a friend," says Merolli, who is captain of the defending intramural league and base champion Services golf team.

"We average 1,100 to 1,200 rounds of golf per month and from 50-150 players per week," says Mr. Valadez. Customers prefer the flexible conditions there, including little to no wait for tee times.

"It's convenient and it's inexpensive," says 69-year-old Mr. D-Andrea, an Air Force veteran from Portland, Ore.

Among the oldest southside courses, the Brook venue has kept up with changing times. During the 1990s, a new concrete golf cart pathway and irrigation system were installed. "About eight to nine years ago, self-help volunteers from Services built the driving range and chipping green," said Joe Tijerina, a Brooks human resources officer in charge of NAF employees.

The Brooks golf course will make history a final time when the last tournament is held there at 11 a.m. July 28. The course will be closed in August.

Its legacy is best articulated by a Massachusetts native who moved here after being medically retired from the Air Force. Mr. Merolli said, "To me, this is my second home."

lost after the second game of the season to Squadron Officers School. The loss did not become a setback for the team that relied on experience and confidence to prevail.

Smith is optimistic about the team's chances for a base crown this year. He knows the squad does not have the problems last year's team faced prior to the playoffs. Injuries and TDYs involving key players impacted HSG's 2005 playoff performance in which they lost the base championship game in straight sets to the Air Force Institute for Operational Health.

"Last year, Amy separated her shoulder in a car accident and couldn't play," says Smith about his wife who is not only

among the best players on the team, but a top Brooks athlete. "She has been playing volleyball since she was six (years old)," says Smith about his wife who has developed into one of the base's strongest hitters. She makes up for her diminutive size with an impressive vertical leaping ability, the coach explained.

One player doesn't make a team, however, as HSG has relied on a solid mix of new talent and veteran players. The team's starters for the playoffs include rookie striker Bennett Burton, veteran setter Whitney Ponzoha, rookie backcourt specialist Hau Tran, and the Smiths. Reserves include Scott Woehl and Jen McGee.

"Our strength as a team is in digs, keeping the ball in the air," Smith said.

FINAL LEAGUE STANDINGS	
HSG	6-0
MSG	5-1
AFRL	4-2
AFIOH	3-3
68 IOS	1-4
USAFSAM	1-5
311 HSW	0-5

Runners conquer Boston Marathon

By 1st Lt. Martha Petersante-Gioia

66th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Runners from around the world hit the streets of Boston and its suburbs April 17 on a winding, 26.2-mile course that is the Boston Marathon — a Patriot's Day tradition here in "The Hub."

Mixed in with the world's elite sneakers pounding the pavement, were runners from the Air Force and the military community, including Air Force Academy cadets.

Some experienced the pain of "Heartbreak Hill" in Newton, Mass., for the first time as others passed the summit again, looking up at the statue of Johnny Kelley for inspiration.

Mr. Kelley holds the record for the most Boston Marathons completed with 61 — he won in 1935 and 1945.

For one captain from Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., the dream of finishing Boston was something she couldn't pass up, especially after watching a friend complete last year.

"This was my first time running Boston," said Capt. Sabine Peters, Electronic Systems Center financial management office. "It was a wonderful experience with all the crowds and people. Yes, it was a challenge — any marathon is — but it was worth it."

When asked about Heartbreak Hill, this Boston newbie revealed it was all a mental game.

"There is definitely hype and anticipation with Heartbreak Hill but you set yourself up — I stopped for a Gatorade and thought, 'I'll get this and I'm good,' and then at the next stop, I got energy gel and thought, 'OK, I can do this.'

"I ran up Heartbreak Hill, thinking, 'No, I'm not going to let you get me.' And I didn't," she said.

It was this motivation to finish that carried Captain Peters through those last six miles and around the corner onto Boylston Street.

"Running to the finishing line you really get emotional. I never saw myself as a marathon runner," she said. But there she was, "surrounded by the crowd, the clock ticking, it was just 'wow' — your legs are in pain, screaming at you to stop, but you're thinking, 'No, I will finish.'"

And she did — in 4 hours, 2 minutes, 26 seconds — a full 30 minutes under her goal.

The Boston Marathon isn't just an individual event like some may think. Teams were also competing in both open and master's events. This year the Air Force entered four runners in the men's open competition — 2nd Lt. Andrew Boone, 1st Lt. Levi Severson, and Lt. Col. Jon Schoenberg from Hanscom, and Lt. Col. Mark Cucuzzella from Andrews AFB, Md.

Together, these Airmen paced at sub-6 minute miles to run into a second place finish overall in the Men's Open competition with a combined time of 7:41:55.

These athletes, though they may be tired and sore, now can say, "I conquered Boston."